

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claims 1-3, 6-18 and 29-31 are active in the present application. Claims 4-5 and 19-28 are canceled claims. Claim 31 is a new claim. Support for new Claim 31 is found on page 2, lines 25-30.

No new matter is added.

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Office for acknowledging that Claims 1-3, 6-18 and 29 are allowable over the prior art of record.

The Office now rejects independent Claim 30 as anticipated over JP '571 (JP 05-279571). The Office characterizes the disclosure of JP '571 as follows:

JP571 discloses a method of preparing a silicone rubber or gel derived from a silicone composition comprising an alkenyl-containing polyorganosiloxane, a hydrogen-containing polyorganosiloxane, a platinum catalyst and an imidazole. The composition does not contain low-molecular-weight cyclic siloxane fractions D₃ to D₁₀.

See the paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5 of the August 9, 2007 Office Action.

First, the Office acknowledges that JP '571 discloses "a method of preparing a silicone rubber". The invention of Claim 30 is a "method of improving flame retardance of a silicone rubber". The Office has provided no explanation how the JP '571 method of preparing a silicone rubber describes or is equivalent to the method of improving flame retardance of present Claim 30. Based at least on this first reason, the rejection of Claim 30 over JP '571 should be withdrawn.

Second, the Office has acknowledged that JP '571 "does not contain low-molecular-weight cyclic siloxane fractions D₃ to D₁₀." Present Claim 30 recites "wherein components (A) and (B) contain low-molecular-weight cyclic siloxane fractions D₃ to D₁₀ in a total amount of up to 1,000 ppm". The Office provides no explanation how JP '571 anticipates Claim 30 in view of the fact that Claim 30 may contain "up to 1,000 ppm" of a component that the Office acknowledges is not present in the JP '571 composition. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Applicants have demonstrated the improved flame retardance obtained by carrying out the method of Claim 30. Example 2 on page 10 of the specification discloses a method that meets the requirements of Claim 30. The flame retardance characteristics of the

composition derived from Example 2 is described in Table 1 on page 12 of the specification. Comparative Example 2, described in the paragraph bridging pages 11 and 12 of the specification, is prepared by a method that is similar to the method used to prepare Example 2, however, the step of adding a benzoxazole was omitted. A comparison of the flame retardance obtained in inventive Example 2 and Comparative Example 2 in Table 1 on page 12 shows substantially improved flame retardance for the inventive example. For example, the flame time for the inventive example is 8 seconds whereas Comparative Example 2 “burned down”.

Inventive Example 2 may also be compared with Example 1 described on pages 9 and 10 of the specification. Where Example 1 contains a large amount of D₃-D₁₀ cyclic dimethylsiloxane fractions, i.e., more than 1,000 ppm, Example 2 contains less than 1,000 ppm of cyclic dimethylsiloxane D₃-D₁₀ fractions. Table 1 on page 12 of the specification shows that inventive Example 2 which contains less than 1,000 ppm of D₃-D₁₀ cyclic polysiloxane fractions has a flaming time that is substantially less than the flaming time of Example 1 (compare a flaming time of 8 seconds for Example 2 with a flaming time of 12 seconds for Example 1).

JP '571 discloses a different process. For example, JP '571 discloses a composition that contains a component (E) described as “at least one sort chosen from an organic tin compound, an organic titanium compound, and an imidazole compound” (see paragraph [0005] of JP '571). The compositions of JP '571 are disclosed to provide templating durability and mold release endurance for resins such as urethane resins (see paragraph [0004] of JP '571).

Applicants submit that JP '571 does not identify a process for improving flame retardancy of a silicone rubber or silicone gel cured product such as that claimed in Claim 30. Applicants thus respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

JP '571 nowhere discloses or suggests that limiting the amount of low-molecular-weight cyclic siloxane fractions D₃-D₁₀ can provide improved flame retardance in a cured silicone rubber or silicone gel product.

For the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and the mailing of a Notice of Allowance.

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